

Site: M:26/13/4

Rockville Park Cottage

Built: 1890

212 Reading Avenue

Builder/ Architect: Thomas C. Groomes (presumed)

Private

Samuel B. Hege was the B & O Railroad Comapany's passenger agent in Rockville when he purchased two lots in newly-subdivided "Rockville Park". Hege presumably engaged master builder/architect Thomas C. Groomes to construct this house immediately afterward. Groomes designed two later residences for the Hege family in Rockville. The 2-1/2 story frame, T-shaped vernacular Victorican, which features a steeply-pitched central gable, was greatly altered in the 1950s.

DOE yes ☒ noNR yes ☒ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rockville Park Cottageand/or common 212 Reading Avenue

2. Location

street & number 212 Reading Avenuenot for publicationcity, town Rockvillevicinity ofcongressional district 8state Marylandcounty Montgomery (RV Planning Area 2)

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>district</u>	<u>public</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>agriculture</u>	<u>museum</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u>	<u>park</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u>site</u>	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>entertainment</u>	<u>religious</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>yes: restricted</u>	<u>government</u>	<u>scientific</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>	<u>transportation</u>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u>military</u>	<u>other:</u>

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Hsuni Kuraishi et. al.street & number 212 Reading Avenuetelephone no.: unlistedcity, town Rockville

state and zip code

Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 6992street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 161city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Park Historian's Officedate 1976 federal state ☒ county localdepository for survey records Needwood Mansion, Needwood Road, Derwood, MDcity, town state

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/13/4

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The subject house faces south on Reading Avenue at the intersection of Grandin Avenue, on a formerly spacious lot, now subdivided, into one with a seven foot side yard. Two mature trees and evergreen shrubs flank the house front and central concrete walk.

This 1890 frame, T-shaped, three-bay by three-bay main block with two bay rear wing is a 2-1/2 story vernacular Victorian with a steeply pitched, central gable. The cross-gabled roof is covered with composition shingles. The house is sheathed with asbestos wood-grained siding, rests on a brick and fieldstone foundation, and has one corbelled interior brick chimney in the wing and an exterior chimney on the west main block.

In plan, the center-hall rectangular main block has a three-sided bay on the east side and a slightly recessed rear wing, making a shallow T shape. The regular fenestration, and prominent steeply-pitched center front gable are marks of a vernacular Gothic-influenced late Victorian house. The trim and detail common to this type, such as gable decoration, front porch, turned posts, corner brackets, clap-board siding with cornerboards and cornice, shutters and decorative shingles have been covered or removed. A ca. 1950 pedimented portico and stoop have been substituted for the original front porch.

The three bay south (front) facade has a steeply-pitched central gable. Siding may cover a typical gable window. One 1/1 window with aluminum storm windows is in each of the second-story bays and the east and west first-story bays. A modern exterior door occupies the center bay. The door surround is a deeply-reeded side moulding and fully architraved lintel with reeded sections, probably added with the later portico.

The four-bay east facade has a flat-roofed, two-story, three-sided window bay in the south bay, with one window each side in both stories, and a single window in each remaining bay, second story. The first story has a pair of 6/6 windows in the south center bay, and one window in the north bay. There are two rectangular cellar openings in the wing foundation which are now filled with plywood.

The north (rear) facade consists of the north side of the rear wing, a one-story, shed-roofed addition, and an enclosed rear porch. There is a rectangular metal vent in the wing gable and one window in each of the two second-story bays of the addition. A one-story addition on a cinderblock foundation has an exterior door on the east, an interior

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212 Reading Avenue

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chimney, and two modern windows on the west. A pair of windows are located on the west side of the enclosed porch.

The four-bay west facade has one window in each of the second story bays. The first story has one window flanking the chimney in the first and second bays south, a double window in the third, and a three-window string in the north bay.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/13/4

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

LOCAL History

Specific dates 1890 Builder/Architect Thomas C. Groomes

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Significance

This 1890 late Victorian cottage was built to take advantage of the proximity of the B&O Railroad line. It was the Spencer family residence for almost 40 years, but is now unsympathetically and drastically modified.

History and Support

Samuel B. Hege was the passenger agent for the B&O Railroad in 1890 when he and his wife Violetta purchased lots 9 and 10 in Block 2 of the newly subdivided "Rockville Park". 1/ The undeveloped lots in this 28-acre site near the railroad tracks had just changed hands, and new owner Washington Danenhower announced in April, 1890 that streets and avenues would be cut through and plank walks laid. In July the Montgomery County Sentinel reported that the "S.B. Hege house in Rockville Park is nearly complete". 2/

It is likely that the Hege house was designed and built by Thomas C. Groomes, one of Rockville's most prolific builder-architects. This presumption is based on the Hege's employment of Mr. Groomes to build two later houses for them. The 1898 Hege house at #12 Baltimore Road (now demolished) and their 1906 residence at 200 Monroe Street are both the work of Mr. Groomes. Unfortunately, the mid-20th century modifications and alterations of the subject site removed original features and detailing, making identification difficult.

The house, at present, is a 2-1/2 story multi-family dwelling with a center flank gable, semi-octagonal bay at the east side, and one story lean-to addition. The pedimented entry portico, and the front door with its classical details are thought to date from the 1950s remodeling, as does the application of asbestos shingles.

The Hege family added another lot to the property in 1893. In 1898 the house was sold to "Frank Spencer of Washington, a prominent patent attorney." 3/ Spencer paid \$2575 for the property, and it remained in

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the family until 1937. During the 25 year ownership of S.P. and Anna Hersperger, it was divided into a two-family unit and the exterior altered. 4/ The Levitovs (owners in 1977) subdivided lots 8,9,and 10 and the subject site is now Lot 20. 5/ It was sold to the present owners in 1986.

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records JA19/332 (1890).
2. Montgomery County Sentinel, April 16, 1890 and July 11, 1890.
3. Montgomery County Sentinel, August 19, 1898.
4. Recollections of Lucy Smith, Nancy Smith and Cay Bride.
5. The original lots were divided into north and south portions, and Lot 20 is the southern portion. See Montgomery County Plat Book 108/ 12501 (May, 1977).

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Montgomery County Land and Plat Records. Montgomery County Sentinel.
Interviews with residents of Rockville Park.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property — 6,815 square feet

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 20, Block 2 as per Plat 108/12501.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Cissel Judy Christensen, Arch. Description

organization Peerless Rockville date May 1986

street & number P.O. Box 4262 telephone 762-0096

city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

1982
City of Rockville
scale: 1"= 600'

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Rockville Park Cottage 212 Reading Avenue





RICHARD H. ANDREWS
424-8282
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

0586/503

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212 Reading Ave
Rockville

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